

1 14-21 - INFORMATION & SCOPING MEETING - BIGFORK

2 JULY 23, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.

3 FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,

4 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,

5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a
Route Permit for the Great Northern High-Voltage
Transmission Line Project from Manitoba, Canada -
Minnesota Border to the Blackberry Substation near Grand
Rapids, Minnesota

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PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21

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Bigfork School
100 Huskie Boulevard
Bigfork, Minnesota

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July 23, 2014

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COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 MS. TRACY SMETANA: Good evening,
2 everyone and thank you for coming. My name is Tracy
3 Smetana, I'm with the Minnesota Public Utilities
4 Commission.

5 And we are here for the public
6 information and scoping meeting for Minnesota
7 Power's proposed Great Northern Transmission Line
8 Project.

9 I've identified the Public Utilities
10 Commission's docket number on this opening slide,
11 that's sort of the key to finding information with
12 our office. So if your contacting us or one of the
13 other departments working on this project, it's
14 useful to include that docket number in your
15 communication.

16 We're going to start off talking a little
17 bit about the route permit roles and process. And
18 that will be the Public Utilities Commission and
19 also a representative from the U.S. Department of
20 Energy. We'll ask Minnesota Power to provide a
21 brief summary of the project. The Department of
22 Commerce and the Department of Energy will talk
23 about the environmental review. And then, of
24 course, the main event is your comments and
25 questions, that's the main reason we're here

1 tonight.

2 Just briefly a little bit about the
3 Public Utilities Commission. I know many folks may
4 have not worked with us or dealt with our office in
5 the past and so I thought it would be useful to know
6 a little bit about who we are and what we do. We
7 regulate various aspects of the energy industry,
8 including permitting for transmission lines,
9 pipelines and so on.

10 We have five commissioners that are
11 appointed by the governor, and they serve staggered
12 terms. It's full-time employment for those folks.
13 And then we have about 50 staff in our agency as
14 well. So we're a pretty small agency.

15 A little bit about who's who in this
16 process. First off, we have the applicant. That's
17 the term we use for the company that's applying for
18 the route permit, so in this case that's Minnesota
19 Power. We also have the Department of Commerce,
20 their Energy Environmental Review and Analysis group
21 is responsible for doing the environmental review
22 for this project.

23 Later on in the process we'll have the
24 Office of Administrative Hearings assign an
25 administrative law judge to this project to gather

1 the facts, sort through the evidence, and ultimately
2 write a report and some recommendations for the
3 Public Utilities Commission to consider.

4 We also have the U.S. Department of
5 Energy and their job is to lead the environmental
6 review when a presidential permit application has
7 been filed. And so Julie Ann Smith will talk to us
8 more about that in a moment.

9 At the Public Utilities Commission, there
10 are two different staff members that you may
11 interact with as part of the process. The first is
12 our energy facilities planner. Their role is to
13 deal with more of the technical aspects of the
14 project, help build the record, sort through the
15 facts, and provide the Commissioners with
16 information on the various alternatives and
17 different impacts that could happen as a result.

18 And then also the public advisor. I'm
19 the public advisor and my job is to work with folks
20 and help you figure out when you can weigh in on the
21 process, what types of information we're seeking
22 from you, that type of thing. And just so you know,
23 the Public Utilities Commission staff, we are a
24 neutral party. We're not advocating for any one
25 group or party as part of the process. We don't

1 give legal advice, so we're not an advocate for
2 anyone.

3 So why is it the Public Utilities
4 Commission is involved in this particular project?
5 Well, the statutes and rules define this line as a
6 high voltage transmission line, and so the statutes
7 and rules say that the company needs a route permit
8 before they can build it. And so the route permit
9 is going to figure out where would it go if they're
10 going to build it. And I've included information on
11 the statutes and rules, so if you're looking for
12 some good bedtime reading, this might be a good
13 place to start.

14 This particular project also needs what
15 we call a certificate of need, again because of the
16 size and the capacity of the project that they're
17 proposing. And so that answers the question is the
18 project needed. So it's sort of a two-part issue.
19 One is is the project needed; if yes, where is it
20 going to go. And some of you may have attended,
21 meetings in the past dealing with the question of
22 need. This time around we're talking about the
23 question of route, where is it going to go.

24 So how does the Public Utilities
25 Commission figure out a route? There are some

1 factors that the statutes and rules require the
2 Commission to consider. What the statutes and rules
3 don't do is rank them or weight them or prioritize
4 them. And so as we work through this process,
5 various folks, yourself included, will have the
6 opportunity to talk about which of these factors you
7 think is most important. You know, one might
8 outrank the other for you, but someone else might
9 feel differently. And so in the end ultimately it's
10 the Public Utilities Commission that will sort of
11 determine that ranking and which factors outweigh
12 one another in determining where it actually will be
13 built if the permit is issued.

14 So now this is a list, if you have the
15 presentation you have the list there in front of
16 you. But you can see it's a pretty comprehensive
17 list of items that the Commission is required to
18 consider in making that decision.

19 If a route permit is issued there are
20 some terms that might be useful for you to know.
21 The first is the permitted route. And that's the
22 location from point A to point B of the transmission
23 line. And that route width can be pretty wide, up
24 to one and a quarter miles. And the reason for that
25 is to allow for some flexibility, you know, somebody

1 says, hey, I'm going to put up a new building right
2 here and nobody knew about it before, maybe the
3 company has the opportunity to move it to a slightly
4 different spot within that same route area.

5 We're going to get smaller as we go down
6 the page, so the next one is the right-of-way.
7 That's the actual land that's needed to build and
8 operate the line. And so that's going to be a
9 smaller chunk of land. And then we get down even
10 smaller yet and that's the anticipated alignment.
11 When the route permit is issued that will be
12 included, where the company believes the line will
13 actually go. And, again, we call it anticipated
14 because until it's in the ground we don't actually
15 know, things could change.

16 Some other terms that you might find
17 helpful if a route permit is issued. There is an
18 easement, and that would be the land negotiation
19 between the applicant -- again, that's Minnesota
20 Power -- and the landowner where the line is going
21 to go.

22 In this particular case Minnesota state
23 statutes also allow for the company to take land
24 using eminent domain if the negotiations fail and
25 what have you. And in that case those decisions

1 would be handled through the court system, it would
2 not come through our office.

3 There's also a statute that some people
4 call Buy the Farm. In certain situations a
5 landowner may require that the company purchase
6 their land, or these types of lands. Again, I'm not
7 an attorney, I'm not giving you legal advice, I just
8 want to throw it out there that these are some
9 issues that might come up throughout the course of
10 this process. There is a handout on the table when
11 you came in that talks in further detail about these
12 issues and so if you have further questions about
13 that that would be a really good place to start.

14 So here is a picture that shows what this
15 process looks like for the Public Utilities
16 Commission to review this application. So you can
17 see we're on the second box right now, the public
18 information and scoping meetings. So you can see
19 there's a lot of other boxes that follow and there's
20 a number of opportunities for folks to have a chance
21 to weigh in either by attending meetings or
22 submitting written comments and so on.

23 And here's the list version of kind of
24 the same thing. So if you're more of a list person
25 you might prefer to follow along on this slide. It

1 gives you kind of the estimated project timeline.
2 So you can see we're on the third box right now, the
3 public information and scoping meetings, July 2014.
4 And as you work your way down through the various
5 steps, the route permit decision is expected in
6 October 2015 and, again, this is estimated, so it
7 certainly is subject to change based on the
8 complexities of the case, new information that comes
9 to light, and so on.

10 So I mentioned one of the ways that folks
11 can weigh in and share your input on this project is
12 through submitting written comments. And so what
13 the Public Utilities Commission will do is issue a
14 notice saying, hey, we're taking comments right now.
15 And so I just wanted to show you an example of a
16 previous notice that we issued in this particular
17 case back in April when we were looking for
18 information on a different issue than we are today.
19 Just so I can point out some of the key pieces that
20 you would want to note if you receive one of these
21 in the mail and you want to weigh in.

22 So the first, here it is again, that
23 docket number. That's sort of the key to everything
24 in our world so it's very helpful to include that.
25 You also notice there's a comment period. And so

1 there's a deadline. Once that deadline is past,
2 information that is received is not considered as
3 part of the record. And so it's really important if
4 you have great ideas that you want to share that you
5 pay attention to those deadlines, because we do need
6 to hold to those so we can keep the project moving
7 in accordance with the statutes and rules.

8 Now, the other piece that's important is
9 what are the topics open for comment. As we work
10 through this process, we're going to ask questions
11 about different things. You can see back in April
12 and May we were asking about, did the company send
13 everything they need to call this application
14 complete? Do we want an advisory task force set up?
15 If somebody weighs in on those questions now, it's
16 not really helpful because we've already made
17 decisions on that. And so Mr. Storm from the
18 Department of Commerce is going to talk about the
19 types of questions that we're looking for help with
20 right now, and those are also included in the notice
21 that you may have received in the mail or seen in
22 the newspaper.

23 So if you're thinking, hmm, this is all
24 really good stuff, but I'd like to stay informed,
25 how do I get more information. If you want to see

1 everything that's been submitted in this docket, you
2 can do that, it's on our website. We have what we
3 call an eDocket system where everything is filed.
4 So the company's application is there. If you
5 submit a comment, those will be there. That notice
6 that I showed you a moment ago, that's in there. So
7 everything that happens in this case, it's sort of
8 our electronic tracking system for all of it. And
9 it's open and available to the public. And so I've
10 included instructions on how to find that
11 information here for both the route docket -- and
12 that's the 14-21 that's listed first -- and also for
13 that certificate of need case that I mentioned
14 that's related to this as well, and that's 12-1163.

15 We also keep a project mailing list so
16 that you can receive information either by U.S. mail
17 or e-mail when there are opportunities to weigh in.
18 So when we have meetings, when there are comment
19 periods, when the environmental review documents
20 become available. And you can sign up for that by
21 filling out one of those orange cards at the table
22 when you came in, I know a number of you did that.
23 And if you forget tonight or you decide later that
24 you want to be added to it, you can always contact
25 our office.

1 We also have an e-mail subscription
2 service that will send you an e-mail every time
3 something new comes. Now, if you're not a super
4 e-mail fan this probably is not the choice for you
5 because it can result in a lot of e-mails, but in
6 any case, these are the instructions to subscribe to
7 receive an e-mail every time something comes in.

8 And then I also just included a picture
9 of what that screen looks like when you go to
10 subscribe, because a lot of people say it's not very
11 user-friendly so I figured if you had a picture that
12 shows you what you need to enter when you get there,
13 that would be helpful.

14 And as I mentioned, there are two
15 different contacts at the Public Utilities
16 Commission that you might find useful. The first is
17 me, again, my name is Tracy, I'm the public advisor
18 with the Commission. We also have an energy
19 facilities planner, Michael Kaluzniak, and he is
20 here in the back and he deals with more of the
21 technical aspects of the project. If you have
22 questions for either of us, we'll be around after
23 the meeting is over and we'll be happy to answer
24 your questions.

25 And, with that, I'm going to turn it over

1 to Julie Ann Smith with the Department of Energy.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Hello, good
3 evening. My name is Julie Ann Smith, I work for the
4 United States Department of Energy with the Office
5 of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

6 I would also like to thank you very much
7 for taking your time out of your schedule and your
8 life today to attend this meeting. Your presence
9 and input are vital to a robust public participation
10 process.

11 This is a scoping meeting, which means it
12 is about me, the DOE, listening to you and learning
13 from you. The Department of Energy needs to hear
14 what issues you think we should consider in
15 conducting our environmental analysis.

16 The reason that we are here is because
17 Minnesota Power is proposing to construct the Great
18 Northern Transmission Line Project, an international
19 transmission line, and has asked the Department of
20 Energy for a permit to cross the U.S./Canadian
21 border. Minnesota Power submitted a presidential
22 permit application to the Department of Energy in
23 April of 2014.

24 Before any electric energy transmission
25 facility can be built across the U.S. international

1 border, the project must obtain a presidential
2 permit from the Department of Energy. A Department
3 of Energy presidential permit authorizes a company
4 to construct, operate, maintain, and connect
5 electric transmission facilities at the border.

6 The DOE is involved in this proceeding
7 for one reason. The proposed transmission line
8 would cross the international border. If this line
9 did not cross the international border the
10 Department of Energy would not be here right now.

11 The DOE has no authority to site this
12 line. Only the State of Minnesota, specifically the
13 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, has that
14 authority. The Department of Energy does not convey
15 the right of eminent domain with its presidential
16 permit, nor can the DOE address the issue of
17 compensation for land that would be impacted by the
18 Great Northern project.

19 However, before the DOE can issue this
20 kind of permit, it must comply with the National
21 Environmental Policy Act or, as we like to call it,
22 NEPA. NEPA is the federal law that serves as the
23 nation's basic charter for environmental protection.
24 It requires that all agencies consider the potential
25 impacts of their proposed actions.

1 NEPA is based on a set of principles.
2 That first principle and the main one guiding our
3 involvement and being here with you today is based
4 on full disclosure and public participation. We
5 also must explore alternatives to the action that is
6 proposed, including a no-action alternative. For
7 the Department of Energy, that would mean not
8 issuing a presidential permit.

9 We also have to assess potential impacts
10 with rigor and with an apples-to-apples comparison
11 between alternatives. We have to consider
12 mitigation or ways to reduce or avoid impacts and we
13 need to weigh options and explain the decisions that
14 are being made.

15 Overall, NEPA promotes better agency
16 decision-making and provides you the opportunity not
17 only to learn about the federal agency's proposed
18 actions, but to provide timely information and
19 comments to us on our proposed actions.

20 In terms of process, NEPA has been
21 referred to as an umbrella statute, in that it
22 allows agencies and developers to comply with
23 numerous individual environmental, health and safety
24 related laws for which we are responsible. We
25 analyze potential effects from federal agency

1 actions to numerous resource types. Not only
2 natural resources, but we also include human issues.
3 For instance, environmental justice concerns as an
4 example. And those would be covered in one
5 analytical document.

6 For this proposed project, the Department
7 of Energy has determined that the appropriate level
8 of NEPA analysis is an environmental impact
9 statement, or an EIS. An EIS from our point of view
10 tells the story of the proposed project in a very
11 clear way. The Great Northern EIS will analyze the
12 foreseeable environmental impacts that might flow
13 from our granting of a presidential permit. The EIS
14 will also identify steps that might be needed to
15 mitigate environmental impacts.

16 We are preparing this EIS along with the
17 State of Minnesota to make this a more efficient
18 review process and to have it make more sense to the
19 public and to ourselves.

20 The other federal agencies involved in
21 the preparation of the EIS are U.S. Army Corps of
22 Engineers, St. Paul District, and the U.S. Fish and
23 Wildlife Service. They have permitting authority or
24 oversight authority for proposed facilities within
25 their respective jurisdictions. The Army Corps of

1 Engineers is currently a cooperating agency to the
2 Department of Energy and the DOC in preparation of
3 this EIS and will be involved.

4 Again, I want to stress that we are here
5 to listen and to get your comments and your
6 suggestions for the issues we should be addressing
7 in the EIS. We would also like to know any
8 alternative routes or route segments for this
9 proposed project. And Bill Storm from the
10 Department of Commerce will cover that in more
11 detail in a little bit.

12 As you can see, just a little bit above,
13 the overall EIS process is sort of what you can do
14 to participate over the next year or so. We are
15 here in the blue circle, scoping. So once the
16 scoping period closes in mid-August, we will get to
17 working at preparing the draft environmental impact
18 statement and this will take us several months.

19 Once the draft is completed it will be
20 made public and posted on our website and will be
21 distributed to everyone on the mailing list. If
22 you want to be on the mailing list, again, you can
23 sign up at the table when you entered and by putting
24 your name on the yellow cards and submitting it to
25 the folks out there, or you can also sign up after

1 the fact if you think about it at either the
2 Department of Commerce, the PUC, or the DOE website.
3 We have several points of access.

4 There will be at least a 45-day comment
5 period for you to review the draft EIS once we make
6 it public and for you to make comment. During the
7 comment period on the draft, you will be able to
8 submit comments in writing or by e-mail, as we're
9 accepting them now. And I will also be back here in
10 Minnesota to hold public hearings to receive oral
11 comments on the draft EIS.

12 After the close of the comment period on
13 the draft, we will prepare the final. Every comment
14 received on the draft EIS will be included in the
15 final EIS and we will respond in the document to
16 every comment received. When the final EIS is
17 completed, it will be sent to everyone, again, on
18 the mailing list, and by posting it on our websites.

19 By law, the Department of Energy may not
20 make a final decision on the Great Northern
21 Transmission Line presidential permit application
22 until 30 days after publication of the EIS. That
23 last box on the diagram represents that decision, it
24 would be issued in the Federal Register publicly,
25 and it is called the record of decision.

1 At the completion of the EIS process, the
2 Department may or may not issue a presidential
3 permit. If the DOE were to issue a presidential
4 permit, the transmission line and associated
5 facilities could not be built unless and until all
6 other state, local, and federal permits are
7 obtained.

8 For this meeting, a court reporter is
9 here to write down and make sure that we record your
10 statements accurately. Whether or not you choose to
11 speak, you are invited to send us written comments.
12 All comments, written or oral, are treated the same
13 and have equal weight. We will accept comments
14 through mid-August and we will consider those
15 comments that are submitted after that date to the
16 extent that we can.

17 If you have any specific questions about
18 the project or elements of the project and the
19 design itself, representatives of Minnesota Power
20 are here. We have a nice mapping station to help
21 assist you if you would like to see specific
22 locations and visual aids to help you think about
23 alternatives and/or to answer your questions.

24 So, please, we encourage you to take
25 advantage of these resources, we encourage you to

1 submit comments. And, once again, thank you very
2 much for coming.

3 And for your reference -- I always forget
4 this part -- the DOE, the federal EIS website, the
5 address is listed up here. That is one point that
6 you can submit a comment. You can submit comments
7 to myself, you can also submit comment on the
8 environmental review to Bill Storm. I just want to
9 sort of state very clearly, you only need to submit
10 your comment to either one of us once. They will be
11 captured in the state and federal record. You can
12 submit them to both of us if you'd like, but just
13 know if you submit it once it will be part of the
14 record and we will have that as part of what we need
15 to inform our decision.

16 And so, with that said, I'm going to turn
17 it over to Dave Moeller from Minnesota Power for a
18 little more specifics on the project.

19 MR. DAVID MOELLER: Good evening. My
20 name is David Moeller, I'm an attorney for Minnesota
21 Power. I'm based in Duluth, Minnesota where
22 Minnesota Power is headquartered. We serve lots of
23 northern Minnesota, including here in Bigfork, the
24 Iron Range, the city of Duluth. And then we have
25 other service territories throughout northern

1 Minnesota.

2 As Julie and Tracy both said, thank you
3 for coming tonight to the meeting, it's important to
4 get your input and get your thoughts on the process
5 and the environmental scope, so we appreciate that.

6 In addition to myself, we have other
7 Minnesota Power people here to answer questions,
8 including Jim Atkinson, who is the routing lead on
9 the project. And you've probably talked to Jim at
10 various open houses or public forums that I'll
11 mention as we go through the slides. And as Julie
12 said, also we have a GIS mapping station down in the
13 front here, you can talk to the folks after the
14 hearing and get maps of any of your land or
15 alternatives if you'd like to look at different
16 possibilities for routing.

17 For Minnesota Power, the Great Northern
18 Transmission Line is part of a larger plan. We file
19 an integrated resource plan with the Minnesota
20 Public Utilities Commission every couple years and
21 this was part of our last resource plan that was
22 approved by the Commission. And it's an important
23 part as we look to transform not only our energy
24 supply but the nation's energy supply to be less
25 dependent on coal.

1 When I started at the company in 2005 we
2 were about a 95 percent coal utility. Today we're
3 down to about 80, 75 percent, as we've added more
4 renewables, especially wind renewables, to meet the
5 Minnesota requirements. And our goal long term is
6 to be about a third coal, a third natural gas, and a
7 third renewable, which includes Manitoba Hydro under
8 that bucket.

9 We also see the Manitoba Hydro resource
10 as being an excellent resource to serve our
11 customers. It's dependable, flexible, and
12 efficient, especially for customers that operate
13 around the clock.

14 For Minnesota Power, the needs for this
15 transmission line, the needs are really threefold.
16 One is to create diversity or have resource
17 diversity as we become less coal dependent. And not
18 only for Minnesota Power, but for the region as a
19 whole as other utilities use the transmission line
20 to receive power from Manitoba Hydro.

21 It also helps increasing demand, so that
22 as a utility in Minnesota we have to meet our
23 obligations to our customers, and as growth is
24 happening, especially on the Iron Range, it's
25 important to have additional generating resources.

1 And finally reliability. Adding another 500 kV line
2 between Manitoba and Minnesota, the key reliability
3 component to keep the lights on, as well as just
4 another interconnection that provides this resource
5 for Minnesota and for the region as a whole.

6 As we developed the Great Northern
7 Transmission Line, we had to go through various
8 steps to get to where we are today and to get to
9 having route alternatives. So that the last step
10 was apply for permits, but there's many steps prior
11 to that, including what are the critical paths for
12 getting this project developed, what are the
13 reviewing and fatal flaws, places we can't go or you
14 shouldn't route a transmission line. Defining what
15 the study area is looking at different options in
16 that study area.

17 And then engaging stakeholders multiple
18 times. We've been in other areas throughout
19 northern Minnesota for open houses, for public
20 meetings, for engaging landowners, stakeholders,
21 local officials, as well as state and federal
22 agencies.

23 And all that has led to determining what
24 a range of alternatives are. And then on April 15,
25 2014, we applied for permits, both the state -- the

1 state route permit, and the Department of Energy for
2 the presidential permit that we're here for tonight.

3 When we developed those range of
4 alternatives, we had to look at both the
5 opportunities and the strengths. And I apologize,
6 the print is very small, but the handout has it as
7 well. And as you can see there's many more
8 constraints where it's difficult or challenging to
9 route transmission lines versus opportunities where
10 there's either an existing line or existing
11 corridors or other places that provide better
12 opportunities for routing a transmission line.

13 We have a number of slides here just
14 showing the different stakeholder outreach and the
15 different public meetings and the open houses that
16 we have gone through in the two-year process leading
17 up to the filing of the applications.

18 So in round one we determined locations,
19 which has been narrowed down to different corridors
20 and eventually to different route alternatives in
21 determining additional routing for different open
22 houses for round three. That ultimately led to what
23 we had as preferred and alternative routes.

24 We have two routes here. The blue route
25 is our preferred route and then our orange route is

1 an alternative route that we think both are
2 feasible, but we have a preference for the blue
3 route for a few reasons. But the Commission could
4 consider both of those routes when they make their
5 final decision on routing, as well as other segments
6 or other alternatives.

7 As we've gone through this process, we've
8 narrowed down kind of what the project is, from a
9 study of over 19,700 miles, to corridors of over
10 7,900 miles, to different route options and route
11 alternatives to about 534 miles, to two route
12 alternatives that we propose that are both around
13 220 miles. And then ultimately when the project
14 gets constructed the right-of-way that will be
15 required is about a 200-foot right-of-way and that
16 will equal about eight square miles of actual
17 right-of-way for the transmission line.

18 This slide just shows the number of open
19 houses and input that we received at various
20 locations, including here in Bigfork. We were
21 also -- in February we were out in northern
22 Minnesota, I Falls and closer to here in and Grand
23 Rapids. Receiving comments, the state was out here
24 in that time receiving comments on the scoping
25 decision for its certificate of need environmental

1 report that was issued a couple weeks ago by Bill
2 Storm from the Minnesota Department of Commerce. So
3 there's been, besides the unofficial open house
4 process, there's also a state process that was
5 started on the certificate of need side.

6 And that certificate of need, along with
7 other permits, are the five major permits that
8 Minnesota Power will need to obtain before we start
9 construction on this project, in addition to some
10 other minor permits. But the certificate of need,
11 as Tracy mentioned, is a requirement that the
12 project would need, that's a determination by the
13 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The state
14 route permit is also by the PUC. The federal
15 presidential permit, as Julie discussed, is issued
16 by the Department of Energy. We will also need to
17 acquire a section 404 permit from the U.S. Army
18 Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act for
19 wetlands and any other water impacts. And then
20 finally we'll need a license from the Minnesota
21 Department of Natural Resources for crossing state
22 lands.

23 So, once again, thank you for coming
24 tonight. We appreciate the turnout and I'll turn it
25 over to Mr. Storm, who will have additional comments

1 from the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

2 MR. BILL STORM: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Bill Storm, I'm with the Department of Commerce.

4 The Department of Commerce's role in this
5 whole endeavor is we facilitate and conduct the
6 environmental review. The Public Utilities
7 Commission, as Tracy stated, they're the final
8 decision-makers. So when we go through this whole
9 process, the process that Tracy laid out, at the end
10 the Public Utilities Commission will be making the
11 final decision.

12 And that decision will have three parts
13 to it, or thereabouts. The first part is they have
14 to determine -- make a determination on the accuracy
15 of the environmental impact statement. Is the
16 environmental impact statement adequate. Next they
17 have to determine whether they want to issue a
18 permit to Minnesota Power for the Great Northern
19 Transmission Line. If they do want to issue a
20 permit, they then have to determine where that line
21 is going to go, what the route is going to be, and
22 what conditions do they want to attach to that
23 permit to help mitigate and facilitate the proper
24 construction of that transmission line. So that's
25 the Department of Commerce's role in this thing.

1 And the main reason we're here tonight,
2 in addition to having Tracy explain what the process
3 is to you, we're also here to solicit from you
4 information. I have to write an environmental
5 impact statement. In this case I will be doing it
6 in combination with DOE, as Julie explained. I need
7 to know what the public and the local units of
8 government want me to include in that environmental
9 impact statement. So that's what I'm here tonight
10 to solicit, some input from you folks.

11 Tracy went over and so did Jules went
12 over the schedule. This is basically just another
13 graphic of that same schedule. You can see we're at
14 the public meeting. I think they covered that okay.

15 In Minnesota, for large energy projects
16 that come before the Public Utilities Commission for
17 a decision, there are two processes. There is the
18 full process and the alternative process. The full
19 process is a longer process, 12 months, plus three,
20 a little bit broader in scope. The alternative
21 process is for smaller projects, it's shorter in
22 scope and length, it's a six-month process, but they
23 have the same milestones in common.

24 The first of that milestone being a
25 public scoping meeting and comment period. And

1 that's what we're doing tonight. We'll be
2 soliciting at the end of my presentation your
3 comments and there will be a comment period
4 following the meeting tonight.

5 The second thing they have in common is a
6 scoping decision. And a scoping decision, you can
7 look at it as the table of contents for the
8 environmental impact statement. And that's what I'm
9 here tonight to get from you people, is to get input
10 on that so that once my meetings are over, this road
11 show that I've been doing the last two weeks, and
12 then the comment period is over, I will take all the
13 comments and I will, based on those comments, make a
14 recommendation to my commissioner. The commissioner
15 of the Department of Commerce is the one who decides
16 what the scope of the environmental impact statement
17 shall be, what the table of contents shall be.

18 Using your comments, again, I will make
19 that scoping recommendation to him and he will
20 release a scoping decision. That scoping decision
21 locks in the issues and the alternatives that are
22 going to be evaluated in the environmental impact
23 statement.

24 The next step is the environmental review
25 document. In the full process, the environmental

1 review document is an environmental impact
2 statement. In the alternative process, it's a
3 shorter process, the document is called an
4 environmental assessment. It's a little smaller in
5 scope and its procedures are a little different.

6 In the full process, once I do the
7 environmental document, in this case it'll be a
8 draft EIS, we will put it out for publication, for
9 release so the public can see it, read it, review
10 it. We'll notice that. And then we'll come back to
11 this same area, do another road show, and solicit
12 comments from the public on what do you think about
13 the draft environmental impact statement.

14 And your comments may be, you may think
15 that I didn't flesh something out well enough and
16 you might provide me with additional information to
17 consider or a reference to consider. Or you may
18 think that I missed something, you know. So that's
19 what that draft environmental impact comment period,
20 that's what that's for, to get your input on the
21 draft environmental impact statement.

22 Once the draft environmental impact
23 statement comment period closes, we then start
24 writing the final environmental impact statement.
25 And in this process the final environmental impact

1 statement is the draft document with a volume
2 attached to it in some way or fashion, it varies,
3 but it's the draft with a volume attached to it and
4 that volume attached lists every comment we got and
5 then our answers.

6 And our answers may be simple
7 acknowledgement of the comment, or our response may
8 be, wow, that's a good source of information, or
9 that's good information you've provided, we've
10 revised section 4.33, go back into the draft EIS and
11 look at that. And when you go back into that you'll
12 see striked out, underlined, and bold to distinguish
13 between the original draft document and the changes
14 that were made for the final. So those steps both
15 the alternative and the full process have in common.

16 The purpose of scoping, the purpose of
17 this public meeting again is to solicit input from
18 the public. I want to know what issues and concerns
19 you have. There are two ways that you do that. One
20 is you suggest alternative routes to me, and the
21 other is you suggest specific impacts or specific
22 local knowledge you have that you want to make sure
23 I cover that issue in the environmental document.

24 The scoping decision, when my
25 commissioner releases the scoping decision, my role

1 has to have three components to it. It has to list
2 all the alternative routes that are going to be
3 addressed in the EIS, it has to list the specific
4 impacts that the EIS is going to address, and it has
5 to provide a schedule for when the draft EIS will be
6 available.

7 The environmental impact statement.
8 Julie gave a definition, my definition is a written
9 document that describes the human and environmental
10 impacts of the transmission line project, including
11 any alternatives that make it through scope that the
12 public has put into the process, and methods to
13 mitigate the impacts that have been identified.

14 Since what I'm doing tonight is I'm
15 asking the public to provide me some input, and the
16 two ways you can put in input are, one, on issues
17 and concerns, and two, on alternative routes.

18 And as an example, when you came in in
19 the beginning there you might have seen on the table
20 a draft scoping document. This draft scoping
21 document lays out what environmental review is under
22 the state process, but it also gives you an
23 indication, if you look at page 5 and 6 of this
24 document, it gives you an indication of what I think
25 the environmental impact statement should cover.

1 And most of these categories are very broad. And
2 what I'm asking the public to do is help me fill in
3 the details of these categories. And the example
4 would be, if you look at 5.13, the category is
5 natural environment. That's a huge category. You
6 look at the subcategory, flora, plants, that's still
7 a huge category. You might have local knowledge of
8 something that you know that's along the route,
9 maybe it's an area that you hunt or maybe it's a
10 property that you own, or just a piece of property
11 that you're familiar with. And you may know that
12 there is maybe a deer wintering stand and old cedars
13 that you want to make sure I address in the
14 environmental impact statement, what's going to be
15 the impact of the transmission line on that. Or you
16 may have a plant that you know is in that
17 transmission line, say the Lapland buttercup, and
18 you want to make sure, Bill, I hike that area, I
19 know this plant is there, it's rare, I would like
20 you to acknowledge that it's there in the
21 environmental impact statement and discuss what the
22 impact may be on it and also how to mitigate that
23 impact. So that's what I'm looking for when I say
24 issues and concerns.

25 The second item, if you remember, is

1 alternatives. This one, I'm going to go a little
2 deeper into this one because I think it's a little
3 higher bar for the public to reach for and it might
4 be what you're interested in.

5 If you know of an issue that's within the
6 route and, again, it can be that deer wintering
7 stand, it could be some unique thing, something
8 unique about it. It may even be on your property
9 where the transmission line is crossing. But
10 there's some unique aspect there that you don't
11 think that the utility is going to be able to build
12 their transmission line without impacting. Even if
13 they're using best management practices. Setting
14 silt fences up, only constructing in the winter,
15 having scheduled in planned, laid-out areas. All
16 the things they do when they build a transmission
17 line to mitigate the impact they have. You may
18 think this one thing you have, the ancient or the
19 old stand of cedar where the deer winter or
20 something that you don't think can be mitigated
21 through construction methodology or practices, and
22 you think the only way to avoid an impact is to
23 avoid that thing. And in those circumstances you
24 may want to say, I want to propose an alternative
25 route or alternative route segment that goes around

1 that area of interest, that avoids it, pushes the
2 route away from it, so that I know that thing that
3 I'm interested in will not be impacted, because I
4 think the only way to not impact it is to avoid it.

5 So that's what I'm looking for when I'm
6 looking for alternatives. And since that's kind of
7 a tough concept, I will provide some examples of it.
8 The reason I say that the alternative is a high bar
9 is because the rules state that if you want to put
10 an alternative on the table that you want me to
11 consider for the scoping decision, you need to
12 explain why that alternative route should be
13 included. In other words, what am I mitigating.

14 And an example of something that I don't
15 think works is if you have -- if the transmission
16 line is proposed to cross your property and you just
17 don't want it to cross your property, you know, it's
18 my property, I don't want it to cross it, I don't
19 want to look at it, put it on Joe's property across
20 the road, you know. That's not mitigating the
21 issue. Your issue is I don't want to see it, but
22 you're not mitigating it by moving it to Joe's
23 property. What I'm asking for is if you give me an
24 alternative, tell me why you are giving me an
25 alternative, and what is it that you're mitigating.

1 And then you need to provide all the supporting
2 data. Your maps, diagrams, your reasoning for it
3 for me to consider.

4 And when I get these alternative routes
5 or alternative route segments in, I consider what
6 you're asking and that goes towards my
7 recommendation to my commissioner of whether this
8 alternative should be carried forward for
9 evaluation. And I realize that's kind of a high
10 bar, so I want to give you some examples of what
11 I've done in the past.

12 This right here is a transmission line, a
13 115 transmission line that was being proposed
14 between the cities of Tower and Embarrass. And you
15 can see Tower to the north and Embarrass to the
16 south, the transmission line as proposed was to run
17 along the east side of 135, this road right here,
18 okay.

19 Many of the homeowners that lived along
20 this road had their driveways that went out to the
21 road, their houses were set back a bit, you know, 50
22 yards or so, as much as you can stand the
23 snowplowing, I guess. And the transmission line as
24 proposed, the 115 line, would cross between their
25 homes and the road.

1 There was a group of landowners who
2 didn't like that, of course they didn't like that.
3 But they also knew, they had local knowledge that
4 the block of land behind them was tax-forfeited
5 land, it was public land. So they came to me -- we
6 did scoping, and they came to me and they said, you
7 know, Bill, I want to couch this not in the terms of
8 I don't want this on my property, I think I have a
9 legitimate rationale, and that is why build a
10 transmission line on private property when there's
11 public property available nearby, relatively nearby.
12 And that was their argument. So their argument was
13 basically put it on public property, not private
14 property.

15 That made sense to me, there was some
16 rationale to that, I felt that that should be in the
17 scope. I recommended to my commissioner to put that
18 in the scope, he did put it in the scope. The
19 scoping decision came out, the environmental review
20 document came out and evaluated the impact not only
21 of the proposed line, but of shifting that line over
22 to that public land.

23 The environmental document came out, it
24 went then to the public hearing that Tracy outlined
25 we'll be following in this process, and then it went

1 to a final decision for the Commission. And in that
2 final decision, the Commission agreed that they felt
3 that was reasonable. That pushing that line to the
4 readily available public property was reasonable.
5 And when they issued the permit that's what they
6 required the utility to do, is to build the
7 transmission line along that public land.

8 Second option, second example. This is a
9 project down in Chaska, down in the Twin Cities.
10 There was a utility that wanted to rebuild a
11 transmission line. The existing transmission line,
12 the purple line, was a 69 kilovolt transmission line
13 that ran along this road. They wanted to upgrade
14 that transmission line to a 115. So taller poles,
15 higher capacity, a little bit wider right-of-way.
16 There was a group of citizens who felt that
17 building -- increasing the size of that project
18 right in front of the historic building, historic
19 property here, they felt that that would negatively
20 impact the historic nature of that property.

21 So they came to me and they said, look,
22 Bill, we'd like you to consider two alternatives to
23 the proposed transmission line. The first
24 alternative was a route segment, alternative route
25 segment, and we call it an alternative route segment

1 because you can see the blue line comes outside the
2 route. This light line here is the route, this
3 purple line is the anticipated alignment or the
4 right-of-way, which it was going to be 75 feet or so
5 wide. But as they always do, they ask for a route,
6 this one being maybe 500 feet wide.

7 Anyway, the alternative route segment
8 that was proposed broke off, came down through the
9 abandoned railroad line, followed the abandoned
10 railroad line and then joined back with the original
11 project.

12 Their second alternative was, okay, Bill,
13 if that doesn't make it, we want to put something
14 else on the table. And they suggested changing the
15 alignment, where the anticipated alignment was going
16 to be. They said why don't we push the alignment
17 across the road and that way it won't impact the
18 historic building.

19 Their argument had made sense to me
20 because they were concerned about this historic
21 building. I thought it was worth let's investigate
22 that and evaluate that, so I recommended to my
23 commissioner that these two alternatives be put in
24 the scoping decision. My commissioner agreed to put
25 it in the scoping decision, consequently the

1 environmental document included an evaluation of the
2 impacts of these routes in addition to the proposed
3 route. The environmental document came out, the
4 process then proceeded to the public hearing and
5 then proceeded to a final decision.

6 At the final decision, once all the facts
7 were laid out, both from the environmental review
8 and from the public hearing, the Utilities
9 Commission did not feel that the upgrading of the 69
10 line to a 115 kV line would have a negative impact
11 on that historic structure and they approved a
12 permit with the original proposal by the utility.

13 Another example. This one I think is
14 near Floodwood. This is a 115 kV line, a
15 proposed -- it was proposed to come up this east
16 side of this county road and then turn and run along
17 the south side of the county road. And it ran out
18 far, this is just a little segment of it, but it's
19 going out there. Anyway, the landowners here who
20 had homes along the road didn't want the
21 transmission line to be between their homes and the
22 road and they knew from local knowledge that the
23 property all along the north side here was corporate
24 Blandin Paper, other paper company land that nobody
25 was living on, it was corporate land. And they came

1 to me and they said, look, Bill, we think it's
2 better for you to use corporate land, forest land,
3 than it is to use residential private property.

4 That argument made sense to me. I
5 recommended it to my commissioner, he agreed that
6 this alternative would be included in the scope, the
7 scoping decision. Consequently, it was then
8 evaluated in the environmental impact statement,
9 went through the public hearing.

10 , and at the end when the Public
11 Utilities Commission had all the facts laid out
12 before them, both the environmental review and the
13 public hearing information, they did issue a
14 transmission line with the route along the north
15 side of that road.

16 Another example. This one is also down
17 near Floodwood. This is a rebuild of a 69 line
18 again. There was a -- oh, boy. There was a 69 kV
19 line running up the west side of this county road.
20 The utility wanted to upgrade that to a 115. Again,
21 taller poles, more capacity, a little wider
22 right-of-way. There was a local property owner
23 family who had a family memorial just outside of the
24 right-of-way of the 69 line. And they were worried
25 that, you know, Bill, the expansion of this

1 right-of-way, the higher poles, we're worried about
2 that negatively impacting on our memorial, the
3 memorial that they had down there.

4 That made sense to me that that needed to
5 be further evaluated so I recommended that to my
6 commissioner. It made it to the scope.
7 Consequently it made it into the environmental
8 review document. Went through the public hearing.

9 And at the end, when all the facts were
10 laid out with the Commission, both the environmental
11 review and the public hearing record, the Commission
12 permitted -- they did not feel that, once they
13 looked at all the measurements, the photographic
14 renderings, all of the information in the EIS that
15 laid out the potential impact of the rebuild and the
16 memorial, they didn't feel that that rebuild would
17 have a negative impact on the memorial and they
18 granted the permit the way the proposal was and went
19 down the west side of that county road.

20 Another example. This is in the
21 Chaska/Waconia area. This is another rebuild.
22 There was a 69 kV line that a utility wanted to
23 rebuild to a 115. Again, higher poles, slightly
24 larger right-of-way, more capacity. This is the
25 existing line and where they wanted to build, where

1 they were proposing to build. The line, the 69 line
2 was put in many years ago and subsequent to that the
3 county had moved -- and it ran along County Road 34.
4 But subsequent to that line being put in, the county
5 realigned that road and moved it up here, but didn't
6 move the line, didn't move the 69 line, but just
7 moved the road up here.

8 These landowners along here came to me
9 and said, look, Bill they have to tear this thing
10 down and rebuild, why don't they realign it back to
11 the road? That made sense to me. I recommended it
12 to my commissioner. It made it into scope. It was
13 therefore covered under the environmental review
14 document. It went through the public hearing.

15 And at the end, the Commission, with all
16 the facts laid out, the environmental review, the
17 public hearing information, they issued a permit
18 requiring the new transmission line to follow the
19 right-of-way of that County Road 34.

20 So that's what I mean when I'm looking --
21 I wanted to give you a perspective of what I'm
22 looking at when I'm looking at alternatives and the
23 reason why we look at alternatives and we want to
24 take your input on alternatives.

25 We do have -- if you have such a

1 situation and, you know, Bill, I'm starting to think
2 about this and maybe I need a little help with it,
3 we do have GIS stations set up down here. And after
4 people are done talking you can certainly come down
5 here with Gerry, and he can pull up your interest.
6 If it's a property you're interested in, he can pull
7 up various layers of all the GIS information, show
8 you all that, and he can help identify what your
9 concern is and maybe help you come up with, if an
10 alternative is what you're looking for, an
11 alternative to go around it.

12 So I was trying to give you an idea of
13 bringing alternatives to me because I think that is
14 a high bar for the public.

15 This slide here is just to show you, as
16 Dave mentioned, this permit, this routing permit is
17 only one permit that they need to actually construct
18 and go forward with the project. They do need
19 downstream permits and these downstream agencies,
20 whether it be the DOT for a road crossing, the DNR
21 for public land or water crossing, the MPCA for an
22 erosion control plan, the law, the statute requires
23 these agencies to participate in this program.

24 And this is just to let you know that I'm
25 not working in isolation. And especially with this

1 tonight is to get your input. I'm going to solicit
2 your input. The comment period is open to August
3 15th. I know Jules with the feds, they have an
4 August 12th date. But if your comments come to
5 either of us by the 15th that's the cutoff date
6 we're using.

7 You can mail your comments to me, snail
8 mail, you can e-mail them to me, fax them to me, or
9 you can go to our website and make a comment on it.
10 You can do the same thing to Julie and the federal
11 website. You don't have to comment on both places.
12 You can if you want, but I want to show you that
13 Julie and I are working very closely on this and
14 your comment will not be dropped if you only comment
15 to one of us. We are going to pool all the comments
16 together at the end. But the comments must be in by
17 August 15th.

18 With that, I think the main -- I hope I
19 don't step over this -- the main portion of what I
20 want to do tonight is I want to solicit some input.
21 And one of the things that we had on the desk were
22 cards to speak. And I always go from the cards
23 first and then when I'm done with the cards I'll ask
24 for a show of hands, is there anyone else who wants
25 to speak, and that's how we do it.

1 Tonight, because we're in the auditorium,
2 if I call your name, stand up, Julie will come to
3 you with a mic, state and spell your name clearly
4 through the mic, ask your question, make your
5 comment. Try to speak slower than I do, I'm brutal
6 to poor Janet.

7 But if you have a question I will try to
8 direct that question either to the PUC staff,
9 Minnesota Power staff, or DOE staff to answer it.
10 We might not be able to answer your question
11 completely tonight, but we'll make an attempt to,
12 and then we'll make sure that that comment is
13 covered in the record and answered in the record.

14 So, with that, I'm going to start with
15 Carol Overland first. You called like three days
16 ago.

17 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Carol Overland,
18 C-A-R-O-L, O-V-E-R-L-A-N-D. I am the attorney for
19 the residents right here and the Not-So-Great
20 Northern Transmission Line. If you search Great
21 Northern Transmission Line you'll find the site
22 Not-So-Great Northern Transmission Line and you can
23 get some more information up there or updates. If
24 you'd like any help, shoot me an e-mail.

25 For comments on this specifically, when

1 we talk about equal alternatives, it's really
2 important in this EIS to look at alternatives to
3 what. Because the project is, you know, promoted
4 as, you know, having a 250 megawatt PPA, a
5 contractual obligation to build a transmission line,
6 and how do you get an alternative to that? You
7 know, it's economic based. So really what's the
8 alternative other than to say something that will
9 put money into our pockets. You know, what are you
10 going to do that's an alternative to a contractual
11 obligation. So take a very close look at that and
12 very specifically identify what the need is so that
13 they can come up with alternatives to that need.

14 Second, this is a huge transmission line.
15 They are trying to build a 500 kV transmission line.
16 Big, big, big. I heard it represented that this is
17 for a 750 megawatt capacity. That's grossly
18 understated. This is the same capacity as a line in
19 New Jersey, Pennsylvania. It's huge, we're talking
20 like 5,000 plus megawatts.

21 So the EIS should reveal the size of the
22 line, the capacity of the line, and it should look
23 at the, you know, emergency rating, that should be
24 disclosed. And then as far as the EIS goes, the EMF
25 calculation should involve a range of potential

1 capacities, from what they say from zero to what
2 they say it's going to be to the emergency rating,
3 which should have a full range of EMF.

4 And you should also look at the impacts
5 of such a large transmission line just because it is
6 so much bigger than what would be required if it
7 were for a 750 megawatt need. It'll transmit a lot
8 more than that, so take a look at that.

9 NEPA, you're not allowed to do that under
10 NEPA and you shouldn't be allowed to do that under
11 Minnesota's NEPA either. This line, in the studies,
12 show it going from like a two configurations in the
13 study areas. Manitoba, through Minnesota, through
14 Wisconsin, around the UP and down in Detroit. And
15 they talk about it being regional. So what are the
16 impacts of this segment, if it is segmented, you
17 know, we need to consider all of the impacts of
18 this, this is just a small part of a much larger
19 project.

20 Also there's an eagle take permit other
21 transmission lines have that that I'm working on,
22 and there's a lot eagles. I saw one on the way up
23 here and I saw another one just right nearby, flying
24 overhead. And eagles are killed by transmission
25 lines, they are killed by transmission lines

1 regularly.

2 So check out the
3 Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line.org if you
4 have questions about this, and if you'd like to be
5 on the list, let me know. Thank you.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

7 Next on my list -- and, I apologize, I'm
8 terrible with people's names, so as I butcher your
9 name, if you recognize I'm talking to you, stand up,
10 Jules will bring the mic to you, state and spell
11 your name clearly.

12 Melvoy Marfield?

13 MR. JIM ATKINSON: It's Mattfield, I
14 believe.

15 MR. BILL STORM: Mattfield. Okay, could
16 be. We'll know in a second.

17 MR. MELOY MATTFIELD: I know in high
18 school I could never stand in front of anybody, but
19 I will now.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Please state and spell
21 your name, sir, and speak directly into the mic.

22 MR. MELOY MATTFIELD: My name is Meloy
23 Mattfield, M-E-L-O-Y, M-A-T-T-F-I-E-L-D.

24 I have a lot of -- I have different
25 comments or concerns, but I'm just going to state my

1 most important one to me.

2 I've read through the literature that was
3 sent to me and I appreciate that so I could read up
4 on the effects from magnetic fields and stuff.

5 But my biggest concern is children. The
6 area where I live, there's lots of families, and I
7 have a grandchild and more grandchildren coming up.
8 And I read different things on it and it sounds, my
9 interpretation, there is no definite proof on
10 anything that it's safe or not safe.

11 I'm not going to read the whole thing,
12 I'll just read what I highlighted.

13 More recently, laboratory studies have
14 failed to show such an association or to establish
15 by logical mechanisms for how magnetic fields may
16 cause cancer. They are saying it may cause it. And
17 my grandchild and my future grandchildren, if it
18 goes through, will be very close to it. And that's
19 where I spend a lot of my time. My hobby is -- I
20 got trails I've cleared throughout the years and I
21 hope to be walking on it 20 years from now. And
22 there's about a three-quarter-mile stretch that I
23 keep opening year after year, and that's where I
24 walk. I spend a lot of time, I go out there about
25 nine months of the year. And if the power line goes

1 in that area, that route, it would be right over the
2 top of it. I could not afford to walk over it,
3 especially with the grandkids and their friends and
4 future grandchildren.

5 I think I -- yeah, I don't -- excuse me.
6 I don't understand the terminology here. It's about
7 children. It says epidemiological studies have
8 shown an association through magnetic field exposure
9 and health risks for children. I don't know what
10 that means, but it scares me. It says there's a
11 health risk for children.

12 So basically I just wanted to state a few
13 of these things. And I have a -- for both routes, I
14 feel this way for both routes. But I wrote out an
15 alternative route that I'd like to show you.

16 That's all I have. Thank you.

17 JUDGE SHEEHY: Thank you, Mr. Mattfield.

18 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you,
19 Mr. Mattfield. Submit your comment to me in writing
20 before the 15th on your alternative. If you need
21 some assistance in laying that out a little better,
22 certainly see Gerry down here. During the whole --
23 well, during the whole process, but up to the
24 comment period, if you need some assistance in how
25 to phrase it or how to word it, certainly give me a

1 call and we can talk about it and walk you through
2 it.

3 So thank you again.

4 Dean Sedgwick. Please state and spell
5 your name.

6 MR. DEAN SEDGWICK: Good evening. Dean
7 Sedgwick, D-E-A-N, S-E-D-G-W-I-C-K.

8 The comments that I have are related to a
9 little bit different approach.

10 Does the EIS actually cover things like
11 economics and economic liability and rate impact?
12 And I believe they do. And I believe there's a
13 cost-benefit analysis that has to be done and my
14 concern is who is going to do that?

15 I think that if you're doing it from the
16 Department of Commerce that it is not truly
17 independent of the agency that's there. Further, as
18 you look at these, when we were involved with other
19 public projects, things like we do with plants in
20 this county, the utility generally performed the
21 overall EIS preparation and then they were reviewed
22 by the governmental entities or agencies. Why is
23 that not the case now again?

24 And not to say that you're not capable or
25 whatever, but it seems like from a clearly good

1 point of vetting information properly and
2 transparency, or transparency in preparation, that
3 the utility, in this case Minnesota Power, or
4 ALLETE, should be the one that's the lead entity to
5 perform this document preparation, and perhaps there
6 should be a review that's done by the Department of
7 Commerce. I don't understand how there's
8 transparency that's really true if you, as an
9 entity, the Department of Commerce, Department of
10 Energy, are the ones that are taking care of this.

11 Further, how does this project at all
12 enhance energy independence in the U.S. and in
13 Minnesota Power? I think that's an issue that needs
14 to be looked at.

15 And then how does this project overall
16 enhance job creation or employment? What I see is
17 that you're closing down plants and then the project
18 comes about and there's nothing that really is a job
19 creator here.

20 The certificate of need status. I'm not
21 sure from what you said whether you already
22 discussed that or not and whether it's already been
23 passed. So I do have some comments about the
24 certificate of need.

25 And then how overall does this project

1 really reduce costs to the public in the long run?
2 You talk about concerns and things, in reality
3 northern Minnesota has been a net job loser over the
4 last number of years and so I'm having a real hard
5 time equating where you're going with this overall
6 concept.

7 And then the other thing is does the EIS
8 contain truthfully a cost-benefit comparison
9 analysis of these issues and of the routing permits,
10 or routing directions. I would hope that they are
11 and I would hope that that really comes into play.
12 There's no way that you can do all of the
13 environmental assessments if you don't literally
14 incorporate those into a cost-benefit analysis.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, Dean.
17 There was a lot there. So I will endeavor with
18 Julie to make sure that the record responds to some
19 of that. I'll try to hit some of the points.

20 On this project, the DOE and the DOC will
21 be producing the environmental impact statement. We
22 will be doing that through a consultant that we've
23 put out an RFP for producing the document. We
24 vetted and evaluated the people who applied for the
25 RFP, we selected a contractor, and that contractor

1 is working with us to do the environmental impact
2 statement.

3 We don't rely on the utility to write the
4 environmental impact statement. We rely on the
5 utility to provide 80, maybe even 90 percent of the
6 data that we need for that document and we vet the
7 data through our consultant to make sure that it's
8 accurate data. But we do that for transparency. We
9 do that because we don't want the public to think
10 that the applicant can get to write their own
11 environmental impact statement. Not anything
12 against the applicant, but I don't want the
13 perception that the applicant is spinning or
14 steering the document.

15 The environmental impact statement is a
16 factual document, it just lays out the facts. It
17 will -- based on the scoping decision, it will look
18 at the potential impacts and the potential issues
19 associated with the proposed transmission line, both
20 of them, and any alternatives that come up to the
21 table. It'll look at ways to mitigate those routes
22 and those problems with the routes, you know. But
23 it will not pick a winner. It just lays out the
24 facts.

25 And it is only one piece of the puzzle.

1 Like Tracy said, once the draft EIS is out and we
2 take public comment on that and we're working on the
3 final EIS, there will also be a public hearing going
4 on. And this case is a contested case so there will
5 be a public hearing portion and then an evidentiary
6 portion, which is real formal, real official.
7 That's where a lot of people's questions or concerns
8 about cost and economics get vetted, at that public
9 hearing.

10 When the public hearing is done, the
11 judge, the ALJ, will take not only the record to
12 date, that's all the public comments I got on
13 scoping, the scoping decision, the environmental
14 impact statement, the final environmental impact
15 statement, and then all of the comments that were
16 raised in all the testimony that was submitted
17 during the hearings, she'll take that into
18 consideration and then she'll make a recommendation
19 to the Commission on this case. You know, on those
20 issues the Commission has to answer.

21 There was a lot there, so I don't know if
22 I'm missing any of it. Jules, do you want to --

23 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: In addressing the
24 presidential permit decision, the environmental
25 impacts of the proposed line, our decision is to

1 create an international border crossing, but we must
2 consider the potential impacts along the entire
3 route. Because if it weren't for the line it
4 wouldn't be coming to us for the presidential permit
5 so we're obligated to do that.

6 Part of the obligation in the EIS
7 process, the EIS, Minnesota Power has provided us
8 with information in the application and we do have
9 to go back to them for technical information, but it
10 is my job -- it is our job as regulators, not
11 advocates of the project, to perform due diligence,
12 and to have our NEPA contractors vet that
13 information, make sure it's accurate, and make sure
14 it is articulated fully and clearly in the document.

15 Again, the EIS isn't a decision-making
16 document, it isn't the decision document for the
17 presidential permit. We have other things that we
18 have to consider. One of those things being whether
19 or not this line is in the public interest. Impacts
20 to the border related to national security, as well
21 as the impact of this line, potential impact on
22 electrical reliability of the grid. So it's a
23 multifaceted decision with the environmental piece
24 of it feeding that decision as one variable.

25 And we also have to be in concurrence

1 from the Department of State as well as the
2 Department of Defense before we would consider
3 issuing a presidential permit.

4 So it is multifaceted in the
5 decision-making. This is the first step for us to
6 really understand the environmental and human
7 implications of what is being proposed and perhaps
8 what our position would have. So it is a process,
9 it is, as I say, our due diligence to make sure that
10 we vet the information that we get and just not take
11 it on face value.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Thanks, Jules.

13 Anybody from Minnesota Power, there was a
14 lot buried in that, if you want to make a statement
15 relative to it, please do.

16 MR. DAVID MOELLER: I think there was a
17 couple questions on the certificate of need process
18 before the Public Utilities Commission, as Tracy
19 mentioned as well. We're still -- that has not been
20 decided yet. We have public hearings, we'll be back
21 in northern Minnesota in October, that's scheduled,
22 then there will be an evidentiary hearing in
23 November, and then followed by a report from the
24 administrative law judge assigned to that case. And
25 right now the schedule is for a Commission decision

1 in May of 2015.

2 And, again, I think that's true, that the
3 process will address a lot of questions as far as
4 cost-benefit, regulatory impact, those are questions
5 that are being discussed and we're bringing
6 information through discovery on those specific
7 questions, kind of who's paying what for the
8 transmission line, and as well as the benefits for
9 Minnesota Power as well as the region as a whole.
10 Which is part of the Commission's role in evaluating
11 the statutory factors for a certificate of need.

12 And one other question about enhanced job
13 creation. We did include in our certificate of need
14 application -- I'm sorry, Janet.

15 We did include in our application a study
16 that UMD had done as far as economic development
17 impacts. And granted, there aren't jobs, long-term
18 jobs from the project, but there are definitely
19 construction jobs and other economic development
20 enhancements from building a six to seven hundred
21 million dollar transmission line in Minnesota, as
22 well as once the line is completed there will be
23 significant property taxes that Minnesota Power will
24 pay on an annual basis to counties and states where
25 the line is located. So there will be economic

1 development from that.

2 MR. JIM ATKINSON: 17 to 19 million a
3 year.

4 MR. DAVID MOELLER: We estimate around
5 \$17 to \$19 million annually for the transmission
6 line.

7 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Dave.

8 Okay. William Yuenger, Yuenger. Please
9 state and spell your name, sir.

10 MR. WILLIAM YUENGER: Yes. My name is
11 William Yuenger, Y-U-E-N-G-E-R.

12 Is it possible to get a map of the routes
13 up on the screen? All right. If it's not handy, my
14 comments pertain to a section of the alternate
15 route, okay. The alternate route is the tail end
16 there right before it goes into the Blackberry
17 Substation right where your pointer is. That
18 section where it crosses the preferred route and
19 then it comes back and joins the preferred route
20 again. That section passes through Balsam Township.
21 And the corridor for that section, following places
22 that fall within that corridor or immediately
23 adjacent to that, there is a church, the corridor
24 separates the church from the parsonage, the Balsam
25 Fire Hall is immediately adjacent to that corridor,

1 the Balsam Township Community Center, along with the
2 recreation complex that contains a playground,
3 skating rink, ball field, tennis courts and the
4 picnic area all fall within that corridor. Further
5 south there is a medical clinic. And where the line
6 crosses County Road 8 is the Balsam Store.

7 Those places will definitely be impacted
8 by any construction and by the line itself. And,
9 also, there are a number of homes, some fall right
10 in the center of that corridor, that will be
11 impacted.

12 The human factor has to take into
13 consideration what that line does to property
14 values. It is my feeling that there are a certain
15 number of -- or certain percentage of the population
16 that will look at a high voltage power line and say
17 I want absolutely nothing to do with it, and if they
18 are a prospective buyer of a piece of property,
19 there goes your sale.

20 In addition to these factors, there is a
21 portion of the line that runs from the northeast to
22 the southwest, that angle across there follows an
23 abandoned 115 volt, kV, corridor. In that corridor
24 are a number of structures that were left purposely
25 because they are osprey nest habitat. A 500 kV or a

1 500 K line, being much taller and above those
2 structures, are definitely going to impact those
3 nesting sites.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, William.
6 Mark Lofgren.

7 MR. MARK LOFGREN: I have a written
8 comment I'd like to hand in for the record tonight.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Certainly. You can give
10 it to Jules.

11 MR. MARK LOFGREN: My name is Mark
12 Lofgren, M-A-R-K, L-O-F-G-R-E-N.

13 And for reference, that same map, it's
14 the same area I'd like to comment on my comments on.
15 If you want to refer to the map book it would be
16 page 49 of 94 in the map book. Page 49.

17 Regarding Public Utilities Commission
18 docket number E-015/TL-14-21. Dear sir, madam,
19 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the
20 Great Northern Transmission Line Project.
21 Specifically, the human environmental impacts of
22 this project. No one wants this power line in their
23 backyard. There are several issues I would like to
24 point out in regard to the western route, otherwise
25 known as the orange or west route as it goes through

1 Balsam Township. I believe it would have negative
2 impacts on this small community as it would pass
3 right through the business district. There are two
4 medical clinics, one on each side of the line route.
5 The Bergren Family Chiropractic Clinic to the east
6 side of the proposed line is within the corridor.
7 Bigfork Valley Clinic, which is a satellite medical
8 clinic of the Bigfork Valley Hospital, is located to
9 the west of the proposed line just outside of the
10 corridor.

11 Balsam Township has a public park, the
12 entire area of which is within the corridor of the
13 proposed orange west route. There is a driveway
14 through the park designated on a map on page 49 by
15 road number T, Tom, dash 2030. At the end of this
16 driveway is a baseball field.

17 Besides being used for ball playing, it
18 is also a landing area for the Life Flight Air
19 Ambulance Service. There have been to this -- they
20 have been to this landing site four times so far.
21 The first time was a promotional visit to make known
22 their services to the local fire department. The
23 next two flights were training sessions with the
24 fire department. The fourth time there was a
25 transport of a man injured in a logging accident.

1 This ball field, as well as the entire
2 park, is within the corridor of the orange west
3 route through Balsam Township. There is also a
4 church, Balsam Bible Chapel, of which most of their
5 property is within the corridor of the orange west
6 route. There is also a main store, cafe,
7 laundromat, construction company, fire department,
8 as well as about 25 homes either in or very near
9 this corridor.

10 All of the above are in Township --
11 excuse me. All of the above are in Section 26,
12 Township 58 North, Range 24 West, or the very north
13 part of Section 35, Township 58 North, Range 24
14 West, or on page 49 of 94 of the map book that has
15 been published showing the proposed routes of the
16 power line. I would like to add that neither the
17 public park or the church are designated as such on
18 the map.

19 In summary, I feel the orange west route
20 through Balsam Township would have a very negative
21 human impact now and into the future for this small
22 community.

23 Respectfully, Mark Lofgren.

24 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your
25 comment, Mark.

1 Roger Webber.

2 MR. ROGER WEBBER: Webber. Roger Webber,
3 that's W-E-B-B-E-R. I'm on Highway 8, 5723, 8 and
4 16. And I have an airstrip and I'm building another
5 airstrip and it looks like it's going to land in the
6 wires. And I'm wondering why you don't follow more
7 of the existing and some of the old lines, like the
8 one that goes to the mine, if you need to cut off
9 before the mine.

10 And, also, what I ran into in Central and
11 South America is what they call the Trans-Pacific
12 Partnership. It puts us dependent on another
13 foreign country. I don't know why we want to make
14 our power dependent on Canada. Even the Canadian
15 citizens are a little upset that we are buying power
16 cheaper than what they can, their own people. So if
17 you want to look up the Trans-Pacific Partnership
18 with Trans-Atlantic Investment Partnership, you'll
19 see what that does for our country.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, Roger.
22 Minnesota Power, any comment? Okay. Again, thanks,
23 Roger.

24 Sally Sedgwick. Please state and spell
25 your name.

1 MS. SALLY SEDGWICK: Sally Sedgwick,
2 S-A-L-L-Y, S-E-D-G-W-I-C-K.

3 I think the way to start this is supposed
4 to be, look, Bill. But, let's see, I'd like to -- I
5 understood from the online discussion that alternate
6 sources of power was also part of this. And I think
7 that would fall under the alternative of no
8 transmission line.

9 It's been my experience that the State of
10 Minnesota and the utilities have not supported the
11 concept of distributed generation for their power
12 projects, which would provide with a reduced number
13 of transmission lines. It's my opinion that this
14 would be better for the state as a public policy and
15 also for the logging industry.

16 Commenting on location and the
17 environmental impacts. And, actually, this is kind
18 of something I'm surprised that no one has brought
19 up, but maybe it's just so obvious. That this
20 particular area has tourism as its main industry.
21 Logging is also the second industry. The logging is
22 losing its importance, and tourism is gaining its
23 importance. The power poles of 150 feet would tower
24 above the trees certainly from across the lake. And
25 there is the aesthetic value in -- or a negative

1 value creating these structures in the wilderness
2 area. And there's also, as far as the open
3 corridor, there's also a privacy issue for people
4 coming for the wilderness experience.

5 So I guess my question is why is this
6 transmission line not collocated with the
7 transmission line that exists down near Highway 65?
8 I realize it's kind of qualitative, but this spring,
9 research was released about animals and discharge
10 from high voltage lines, animals see this as lines
11 of popping lines, that's according to the PBS
12 article. Although human eyes don't pick up UV, and
13 they don't see UV discharge. I've given a few
14 references to Julie to look into it.

15 To me, well, it also states in other well
16 respected articles, PBS and BBC, that the avoidance
17 of power lines, which this causes, can interfere
18 with migration routes, breeding grounds, and grazing
19 for both animals and birds. And to me this is a
20 very strong argument for collocating the
21 transmission line along the route that's already
22 being used and already is.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Sally.

25 I'm done with the cards, so now I'll go

1 through the default position, which is if there's
2 anybody who wants to speak, please raise your hand.
3 Anybody who hasn't spoken, first?

4 Okay. Carol, you can certainly have
5 another shot at it.

6 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Let's loosen up the
7 crowd a little bit.

8 I wanted to comment briefly on
9 Mr. Sedgwick's things that he brought up. And that
10 was about who's doing the EIS. And in a previous
11 docket that I'd been involved with a couple years
12 ago, a contractor was selected that had conflicts of
13 interest in two locations. And it just so happened
14 that at each of those locations, the existence or
15 nonexistence of a transmission corridor was
16 misrepresented in the DEIS. So have you vetted the
17 contractor for potential conflicts of interest?

18 MR. BILL STORM: The contractor -- we did
19 a joint search of RFP proposals, and both the feds
20 and the state vetted the contractors for conflict of
21 interest.

22 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And that is
23 required by federal environmental regulations issued
24 by the Council of Environmental Quality, as well as
25 the Department of Energy --

1 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, I can't hear
2 you.

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Oh, I'm sorry. I
4 said that is also, the conflict of interest issue,
5 is required for DOE to address up front by the
6 Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing
7 regulations, as well as DOE's NEPA implementing
8 regulations.

9 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: That's very good to
10 hear because that does not happen in Minnesota.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. I'm going to ask
13 again. Anybody want to speak tonight?

14 Remember that you have until August 15th
15 to get your comments, issues, alternatives to me or
16 to Julie. We certainly have -- Gerry will stay here
17 as long as you want to help you out with -- oop.

18 Okay, sir, if you'd please state and
19 spell your name.

20 MR. TOM BOLAND: Tom Boland, T-O-M,
21 B-O-L-A-N-D.

22 This just popped on as I was sitting
23 here. I lived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for a
24 number of years and I lived right next to a
25 high-energy line on the side of the hill at the

1 bottom of the mountain. And I can remember in
2 moisture incidents being woken up by a loud, loud,
3 sometimes very loud crackling and popping. What's
4 the incidence of sound pollution or sound with
5 moisture? What is the proposed line, 500 kV?

6 MR. BILL STORM: Before I -- if Minnesota
7 Power wants, but noise is, if you look in that draft
8 scoping document that I have on the table, and you
9 look through that draft table of contents, noise is
10 one of the categories that we will definitely cover.
11 We'll talk about the anticipated noise from a kV
12 line under varying environmental conditions will be.
13 And so you'll have the dBA, the decibels, how it is,
14 and model it out to how far you have to be to be
15 able to still hear that in its worst-case and
16 best-case scenarios. Minnesota Power is okay with
17 that? We will cover that in the EIS.

18 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And, if I may,
19 noise analysis not only looks at the operation of
20 the line, but also potential noise for construction
21 as well. So the associated activities, the analysis
22 will cover all of those activities in construction
23 and operation.

24 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

25 We'll try again. Please, if you do,

1 that's what I'm here for.

2 Anybody else?

3 Please, sir, stand and state and spell
4 your name.

5 MR. ROGER WEBBER: Roger Webber,
6 W-E-B-B-E-R.

7 There's one thing, where I live on this
8 ridge, we call it Lightning Ridge, it definitely
9 gets struck by lightening. I have so many fuses
10 blown to pieces. Does that have any effect on a
11 power line?

12 MR. BILL STORM: I know -- I'm not an
13 electrical engineer, I'm a chemist, but I know the
14 transmission lines have, you know, grounding
15 protections. But, certainly, Jim, if you want to
16 elaborate on that? Putting you on the spot.

17 MR. JIM ATKINSON: I won't elaborate much
18 other than to reiterate that they are grounded. So
19 they're protected from lightning. If you want a
20 more detailed answer we have an engineer with us.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Excellent. Thank you,
22 Jim.

23 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And where is the
24 engineer, Jim? Right back in the corner.

25 MR. RYAN REED: I'd just like to say

1 that --

2 COURT REPORTER: I can't hear you, you're
3 going to have to wait for the mic.

4 MR. RYAN REED: Ryan Reed, R-E-E-D,
5 Department of Natural Resources. I'm in the
6 northeast region, representing Itasca and
7 Koochiching Counties. And I'm here if folks have
8 any questions of the DNR. The DNR has provided
9 early coordination comments to the process so far,
10 so I'll hang around for a while afterwards, so come
11 talk to me if you need to.

12 MR. BILL STORM: I appreciate that, Ryan.
13 Thank you very much.

14 Okay. Anybody else want to speak, ask a
15 question?

16 The gentleman in the back. We'll go this
17 way first. Sir, go ahead, state and spell your
18 name, please, and then we'll get to the gentleman in
19 the back.

20 MR. MELOY MATTFIELD: Meloy Mattfield.
21 Same as before.

22 These two gentlemen in here, Mr. Yuenger
23 and Mr. Lofgren, I believe, when they were
24 talking -- I don't know them, but we live in the
25 same area, we're neighbors. I don't know them

1 personally. But they, when I made the comment about
2 children, I'm concerned about children and the
3 effects of magnetism or whatever, that is the same
4 area I live, what they were talking about. The
5 church and everything. So there's a lot of -- it's
6 a large community and there is basically children
7 there, so I would like to comment, what they had to
8 say, that is where I live on that orange route.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you again for
10 adding that.

11 Gentleman in the back, wait for Jules to
12 get to you, and state and spell your name, please.

13 MR. DEAN SEDGWICK: Thank you. Dean
14 Sedgwick, D-E-A-N, S-E-D-G-W-I-C-K.

15 Just a couple of short questions.

16 One is who is the consultant that you
17 hired? And how will you ensure that transparency
18 and correctness is actually adhered to and actually
19 part of the overall process? In the past I've seen
20 some instances where that's not always been the case
21 for whatever reason. So how are you going to
22 guarantee to the public there is transparency?

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you for
25 your comment.

1 The contractor that we awarded the
2 contract to is Barr Engineering out of Minneapolis.
3 They have some significant history in the state of
4 Minnesota working on them.

5 As far as transparency, what I'm doing
6 tonight, the comments that are generated, you guys
7 will see, they will be posted on eDockets, on my
8 website, on the fed's website. Everything we do is
9 in the open. If we ask -- if we do an information
10 request to the utility, you'll see what we're asking
11 them and what further information we're generating.

12 The document will be produced in its
13 draft form, we will bring it out, we will release it
14 to the public. We will have a comment period on
15 that draft EIS. All those comments will be
16 available both online, on the various websites, and
17 also part of the final EIS and we'll answer them.

18 Everything we do is in the open. We'll
19 have a public hearing, it's open to the public, the
20 public can come and ask questions. So we take great
21 pains to make sure that the public can see what's
22 happening. All the cards are on the top of the
23 table.

24 Jules, if you want to add anything to
25 that?

1 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: I absolutely
2 support what you said. I mean, quite frankly, the
3 process in the National Environmental Policy Act
4 process is defined by -- the basic principle it is
5 built on is transparency and public participation,
6 as Bill said, meaning that that information is
7 publicly available. We let you review the draft
8 environmental impact statement, help us correct
9 perhaps inaccurate information, help provide us new
10 information.

11 This is, you know, the federal and state
12 agencies, the regulators, this is our job. This is
13 how we exercise our due diligence and our function
14 in our governmental role and we absolutely rely on
15 the public in this process to help us get these
16 things correct.

17 So really the process itself, as long as
18 it's adhered to, which we absolutely will do and we
19 are obligated to do and, quite frankly, it is
20 something that I enjoy doing or else I wouldn't be
21 engaged in this work. And it is something that is
22 the right thing to do in terms of the federal
23 government making a decision about a presidential
24 permit.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

1 Okay. Back to the pool again. Any --
2 and, please, I mean, I'll stay here all night.

3 Okay. I'm going to go once, twice.

4 Remember August 15th, get your comments
5 in to me, get your alternatives in to me. Sit down
6 with Gerry, he'll work with you throughout it.

7 Okay, sir. Please state and spell your
8 name.

9 MR. TOM BOLAND: Tom Boland, T-O-M,
10 B-O-L-A-N-D.

11 Are any of these towers going to be lit?
12 If so, how many?

13 MR. JIM ATKINSON: Jim Atkinson. The
14 answer is no.

15 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Back to the pool.
16 Where was I?

17 Okay. One, two. Remember August 15th.
18 You have my contact information, if you need help
19 getting a thought out or you need help with an
20 alternative or you just have a general question,
21 always contact me. You can always contact me.

22 So I'm going to call that with three,
23 then. Going.

24 Okay. I really appreciate people coming
25 out. This process is all about you guys helping me

1 see that the record is fair and balanced so that
2 when the final record gets presented in front of the
3 Commission that they can have all the facts and all
4 the sides to make a determination.

5 Thank you for coming out and I'll see you
6 again shortly, I'm sure.

7 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And also, there are
8 business cards at the check-in table where you came
9 in, my business cards are there to contact myself if
10 you have any questions.

11 (Meeting concluded at 7:46.)

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